

1 S.137

2 Introduced by Senator Ashe

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Commerce and trade; workforce development

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create a
7 Department of Labor and Workforce Development; require a Memorandum of
8 Understanding by and among workforce education and training providers in
9 State government; create an Apprenticeship and Youth Mentoring Program;
10 and implement certain employment and workforce development strategies.

11 An act relating to promoting workforce development

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 * * * Agency of Commerce and Community Development; Vermont

14 Manufacturing Extension Center; Supply Chain Manufacturing * * *

15 * * * Department of Labor and Workforce Development * * *

16 Sec. 1. 21 V.S.A. § 1 is amended to read:

17 § 1. DEPARTMENT CREATED; COMMISSIONER, APPOINTMENT

18 (a) The Department of Labor and Workforce Development is hereby
19 created to administer the laws relating to labor in chapter 1, subchapters 4 and
20 5 of chapter 3, and chapters 5, 9, and 12 through 17 of this title; 10 V.S.A.

1 chapter 22A relating to workforce education and training; and other laws
2 assigned to the Department for administration. There shall be within the
3 Department the Apprenticeship Council and other boards, councils, and
4 committees specially assigned to the Department.

5 (b) Biennially, with the advice and consent of the Senate, the Governor
6 shall appoint a Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development.

7 Sec. 2. STATUTORY REVISION

8 The Legislative Council shall revise the terms “Commissioner of Labor”
9 and “Department of Labor” in the Vermont Statutes Annotated to read
10 “Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development” and “Department of
11 Labor and Workforce Development” consistent with 21 V.S.A. § 1.

12 * * * Employment Strategies * * *

13 Sec. 3. EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES FOR TARGET POPULATIONS

14 The Director of Workforce Development shall identify specific cohorts of
15 Vermonters who, as a population, should be paired with specific employment
16 strategies, including:

17 (1) at-risk high school juniors and seniors;

18 (2) 16- to 30-year-old Vermonters who are not in the labor force;

19 (3) unemployment beneficiaries with less than a college degree who are

20 in need of relevant vocational training;

1 (4) unemployment beneficiaries with at least a college degree who are in
2 need of relevant vocational training;

3 (5) potential new entrants to the workforce at all skill and educational
4 levels;

5 (6) new Americans; and

6 (7) older Vermonters.

7 * * * Workforce Development Across State Government * * *

8 Sec. 4. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT; MEMORANDUM OF
9 UNDERSTANDING

10 On or before October 1, 2017, the Department of Labor and Workforce
11 Development shall negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Understanding to
12 coordinate workforce development across State government with the Agencies
13 of Commerce and Community Development, of Human Services, of
14 Agriculture, Food and Markets, and of Education that:

15 (1) creates an information-sharing and communications protocol
16 designed to ensure the timely and efficient exchange of data and information
17 between the Department and the agencies, including data and information
18 concerning employer needs for Vermont's workforce, and workforce needs for
19 education, training, and job opportunities;

1 (2) specifies how the Department and other agencies will work
2 collaboratively to meet employer and workforce needs and coordinate their
3 workforce education and training programs and activities; and

4 (3) includes any other subject matter the Department and agencies
5 consider necessary and appropriate.

6 * * * Apprenticeship and Youth Mentoring Program * * *

7 Sec. 5. APPRENTICESHIP AND YOUTH MENTORING PROGRAM

8 (a) On or before October 1, 2017, the Department of Labor and Workforce
9 Development shall design and begin implementation of the Apprenticeship and
10 Youth Mentoring Program, the purpose of which shall be to provide paid work
11 experiences for Vermont youths, working with mentoring professionals, that
12 have academic and occupational education as a component, including:

13 (1) a summer youth employment program for high school juniors and
14 seniors; and

15 (2) nonseasonal employment, preapprenticeship programs, and on-the-
16 job training, for an at-risk youth employment program targeted for 18–24-year-
17 old, at-risk men and women.

18 (b) The Department shall implement the Program using funds from the
19 State’s Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act grant from the U.S.
20 Department of Labor.

1 (c) The Department shall design the Program to serve no fewer than 150
2 individual Vermonters.

3 * * * Workforce Development Strategies * * *

4 Sec. 6. 10 V.S.A. § 541 is added to read:

5 § 541. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

6 The Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development, as the
7 designated leader of workforce education and training pursuant to section 540
8 of this title, shall exercise his or her authority and collaborate with all
9 necessary partners within and outside State government to execute the
10 following workforce development strategies within and through the
11 Department of Labor and Workforce Development:

12 (1) create a clearinghouse of all workforce education and training
13 opportunities across the State;

14 (2) implement cross training of staff at all levels to ensure all staff are
15 familiar with one another's programs and activities;

16 (3) develop a common intake and joint referral process;

17 (4) create a partnership with the Department for Children and Families
18 to provide workforce services for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
19 beneficiaries, noncustodial parents who owe child support, and Able Bodied
20 Adults Without Dependents;

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* * * Effective Date * * *

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Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE

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This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.